

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES
IN ZOOLOGY OF THE GENERIC NAME *SPIRONTOCARIS* BATE,
1888 (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA). Z.N.(S.) 621

By L. B. Holthuis (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, Netherlands*)

The purpose of the present application is to seek the addition to the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology of the name of a well-known genus of Caridean shrimps. The nominal genus in question is *Spirontocaris* Bate, 1888, *Rep. Voy. Challenger* (Zool.) 24 : 576, 595, type-species, by monotypy, *Cancer spinus* Sowerby, 1805, *Brit. Miscell.* 4 : 47.

2. So far as is known to me, this generic name is available in the sense that it has not previously been used for any other genus in the Animal Kingdom and that it has been proposed in accordance with the requirements of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature. It has been used by every author who recognises the distinctness of the genus from the genus *Hippolyte* [Leach], [1814] and it is generally accepted in modern carcinological literature.

3. There is, however, a minor complication connected with this name which might become a potential menace to the stability of the name *Spirontocaris*. When Bate studied the Crustacea Macrura of the Challenger Expedition, he found a parasitic Cirripede on a specimen of the species which he intended to describe in his report under the name *Spirontocaris spinus* (Sowerby). He sent this parasite to Dr. P. P. C. Hoek in Holland, to whom the study of the Cirripedia of the Challenger Expedition had been entrusted. At the meeting of the Netherlands Zoological Society on 18th December 1886, Dr. Hoek made some remarks on the parasite and stated it to have been found on a specimen of "*Sowerbyus spinus*". The proceedings of this meeting were published in 1887 (*Tijdschr. Nederl. dierk. Ver.* (2) 1 : ccviii) and the binomen *Sowerbyus spinus* is there published for the first time. The generic name is obviously a manuscript name of Bate's for the genus in which he later placed *Cancer spinus* Sowerby. Bate probably changed *Sowerbyus* to *Spirontocaris* because he thought the former name showed too much resemblance to *Sowerbya* d'Orbigny (1850), a genus of Mollusca (Pelecypoda). In Hoek's note the name *Sowerbyus* was published one year before the publication of the name *Spirontocaris* by Bate. As Hoek cited the binomen *Sowerbyus spinus* without mentioning the author of either name, and as he gave no details whatsoever of the species, the generic name *Sowerbyus* may conveniently be considered a *nomen nudum*. However, since *Cancer spinus* Sowerby was probably the only shrimp bearing the specific name *spinus* at that time, the association of that specific name with the generic name *Sowerbyus* might be considered by some authors a sufficient indication to make the generic name available and to identify the genus in question.

4. In order to prevent the validity of the well-known generic name *Spirontocaris* Bate, 1888, from ever being threatened by the generic name *Sowerbyus* Hoek, 1887, I ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :—

(1) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the generic

name *Spirontocaris* Bate, 1888 (gender : feminine), type-species, by monotypy, *Cancer spinus* Sowerby, 1805 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda);

- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the specific name *spinus* Sowerby, 1805, as published in the binomen *Cancer Spinus* [*sic*], (type-species, by monotypy, of *Spirontocaris* Bate, 1888);
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the generic name *Sowerbyus* Hoek, 1887 (a *nomen nudum*).